

District IV Commissioner Romney Rogers



I hope you had a pleasant summer and that you are getting down to business now that school buses are rolling again and the City Commission is back in session.

State of the City – On August 21st, Mayor Seiler delivered the 2013 State of the City Address. For the video and text: <http://fortlauderdale.gov/commission/bios/seiler.htm>.

Final City Budget Hearing – On September 3rd, the Commission voted to adopt the tentative budget. The second and final budget hearing is set for **Thursday, September 12th** at 6 PM, City Hall, First Floor Chambers. Your input is appreciated.

Marina Lofts – On August 20th, the Commission unanimously approved the proposed apartment complex. I was not able to vote because of a conflict of interest: One of my law partners represents the Water Taxi, which stands to benefit from subsidized fares the City is requiring the developer to provide apartment residents. The project, to be built in the Tarpon River neighborhood between SW 4th Avenue and the FEC railroad tracks, will include 856 rental units in three buildings up to 30 stories high. The site will include retail, restaurant, and marina space. Moving the Florida Champion Rain Tree was also approved, and the developer will post a \$1 million bond to be paid if the tree does not survive for at least five years in its new location. Bond funds would be used to buy new trees for the City.

Lien Amnesty Program – The application deadline is Friday, September 13th for Fort Lauderdale property owners to take advantage of a special offer on outstanding liens. For a limited time, neighbors who bring their properties into compliance can clear existing liens at a significantly reduced rate - some up to 85%! Please visit <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/lienamnesty/index.htm> for more information about this program.

Sun Trolley – In July, more than 41,000 passengers rode on the seven trolley routes. In August, Sun Trolley's mobile Tracker App received its 10,000th download! The app tracks the location of all trolleys across the seven routes in real time. GPS location services in the user's smartphone allow the app to direct the passenger to the nearest route where he or she can wave down a trolley. Plans are underway to expand the app's potential by integrating with *Go Riverwalk's* event calendar and developing a desktop app for use by hotel concierges in the City. Discussions are ongoing for a Downtown Route expansion and other ways to improve connectivity citywide.

Changes to NFIP – In 2012, Congress passed the Biggert Waters Insurance Reform Act, which calls on FEMA to make changes to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). For a federal fact sheet on these changes, see https://s3-us-gov-west-1.amazonaws.com/dam-production/uploads/20130726-1909-25045-0554/bw12_sec_205_207_factsheet4_13_2013.pdf. If you are in a flood zone, you should review this program closely. Also, please report to my office all instances of flooding in your neighborhood, so the City can have a good baseline for the extent of our storm water issues. Staff is currently coming up with a plan to present to the Commission to address the level of service for storm water management, and we need your input to better understand the expanse of the issues to address.

Advisory Boards and Committees – The City is currently seeking applicants for several advisory boards and committees. If interested, please refer to http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/clerk/board_openings.htm. My current vacancies include the Charter Revision, Community Appearance, and Nuisance Abatement boards.

Calendar Items –

- **Telephone Town Hall Meetings** – Sept. 24, 7 PM: District III Commissioner DuBose. My Telephone Town Hall is set for Oct. 21, 7 PM. To participate or listen in, please call 1-855-269-4484 toll free. To listen to audio recordings of the previous Town Hall meetings, go to <http://www.fortlauderdale.gov/TTH/index.htm>.
 - **9/11 Remembrance Ceremony** – Sept. 11, 9:30 AM; Fire & Safety Museum, 1022 West Las Olas Blvd.
 - **It's A Big Pasta Festa** (fundraiser) – Sept. 11, 5 - 8:30 PM; Fort Lauderdale Woman's Club, 20 S. Andrews.
 - **Where the Cars Are** (antique cars) – Sept. 12, Oct. 24 & Nov. 21, 6 - 9 PM; Riverside Hotel Lawn.
 - **Snyder Park Butterfly Garden Grand Opening** – Sept. 14, 8:30 - 11 AM; 954-828-4341; 3299 SW 4th Ave.
 - **Find Your Fitness** – Sept. 14, 10 AM - 2 PM; Esplanade Park. 954-468-1541; <http://www.goriverwalk.com>.
 - **Las Olas Oktoberfest** – Sept. 20 - Sept. 29 (times vary); Riverside Hotel Lawn.
 - **Festival of Souls** – Thurs/Fri/Sat/Sun from Sept. 26 - Nov. 3; 7:30 - 11 PM; Las Olas Riverfront.
 - **Lauderdale Fest Oktoberfest** – Sept. 28, Noon - 11 PM; Huizenga Plaza.
- ❖ **My City Hall Office Hours are Mondays from 2 - 5:30 PM and Tuesdays from 9 AM - Noon (in non-Commission weeks). For appointments, please contact MJ Matthews at 954-828-5028 or mmatthews@fortlauderdale.gov.**